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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application No. Unassigned

Applicant: Shinohara et al.

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Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.